

# **WATER BOARD MINUTES**

**October 20, 2014**

**Service Center Conference Room  
1100 S. Sherman Street  
Longmont, CO 80501**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The October 20, 2014 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Chairman Bruning at 3:00 p.m. at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: John Bruning, John Caldwell, Renee Davis, Dave Swenson and Todd Williams

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Nelson Tipton, and Cindy Sater

Council Liaison Present: Mayor Dennis L. Coombs arrived at 3:05 p.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Board member Caldwell to approve Water Board's September 15, 2014 minutes as written; motion was seconded by Board member Swenson. Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

### **3. WATER STATUS REPORT**

On behalf of the Water Commissioner, staff member, Wes Lowrie, gave the current water status report. The Lyons gage at 1:15 p.m. today was 58 cfs with an historical average of 36 cfs on this date. Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve was at 6,385.3 feet equaling 13,132 acre feet, down just over 3,000 acre feet. There are no calls on the St. Vrain Creek or South Platte River. Reservoirs in the St. Vrain system were 75 percent full on September 30th. There is currently 55 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

### **4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There was no public in attendance.

**5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Nelson Tipton submitted copies of water related Senate Legislative Bills A-F related to Agenda Item 7A.

**6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY**

There were no development activities requiring Water Board action this month.

Mayor Coombs arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. 2015 Guiding Water Principles**

Staff member, Nelson Tipton presented current legislative information noting that the 2015 legislative session will begin January 7, 2015. Water Resources legislative review staff and Water Board had no additional principles to add to the existing Guiding Water Principles. Staff recommended that the 2015 Guiding Water Principles be approved the same as they were in 2014. The 2015 Guiding Water Principles are tentatively scheduled to be presented to City Council by Assistant City Manager, Sandi Seader in December 2014. The Guiding Water Principles allow City Council, Water Board and staff to better evaluate how water related bills would impact the City of Longmont.

**Motion was made by Board member Caldwell and seconded by Board member Davis to recommend forwarding the 2015 Guiding Water Principles to City Council with no changes or additions from 2014. Motion passed 5-0.**

Staff member, Ken Huson commented that the draft Colorado Water Plan is available on the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) web site. CWCB will present it to the Governor later this year, then one year will be allowed for review and comment on the draft plan after that time. The topic will be added to Water Board's agenda to discuss during the comment period. Staff member Tipton discussed the upcoming Senate Bills A-F with Water Board and the effects that they might have on Longmont water supplies.

**B. EPA "Waters of the US" Proposed Rule**

Staff member, Ken Huson reviewed with Water Board the draft Council Communication and resolution regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed rule defining the scope of the waters protected under the Clean Water Act, "Waters of the US". The proposed resolution requests that the EPA consult on an ongoing basis with water

providers, utilities and national scientific and educational water agencies to ensure that the proposed rule does not unduly impede the City's operation. Ken explained that the intent of this proposed rule is to clarify and simplify the definition of the Waters of the US. However, the proposed rule has elevated concern by a number of different agencies including the Colorado Water Congress and the Small Business Administration regarding the potential for this proposed rule to expand federal regulatory oversight thereby potentially increasing costs to agricultural interests, municipalities, and water providers.

**A motion was made by Board member Williams for Water Board to recommend to City Council to approve the resolution in the form substantially presented. Board member Caldwell seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.**

## **8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **A. Windy Gap Firing Project Update**

Staff member Huson shared the progress of the Windy Gap Firing Project with Water Board. The project is moving forward now that the draft carriage contract has been prepared and advertised in local newspapers. Once the carriage contract has been approved the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation can issue a Record of Decision (ROD). This will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for a 404 permit for construction of the reservoir. All of the environmental impact statements have been completed in the past. During the next six months Water Board will be asked to recommend to City Council the level of participation for Longmont in the design phase of the Windy Gap Project. Staff member Huson explained the changes in the carriage contract from the previous version and operational aspects of how the Windy Gap water will tie in with the Colorado Big Thompson system.

Board member Caldwell commented that Water Board will need to make sure Longmont firm's up its Windy Gap water supply.

## **9. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

### **A. Review of Major Project Listing & Items Tentatively Scheduled for Future Board Meetings**

Water Board's major project listing included in the packet was reviewed.

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's Fall Water User's Meeting will be held on November 5, 2014. Staff will forward the meeting notification when they receive it.

Chairman Bruning notified Water Board that he will not be able to attend the November 17, 2014 meeting.

#### **10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Comments on the EPA "Water of the US" proposed rule were discussed with Water Board by staff member Huson during presentation of Agenda Item 7B.

#### **11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Informational items were included in the Water Board packet.

#### **12. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Chairman Bruning asked for a motion for adjournment.

**A motion for adjournment was made by Board member Caldwell; the motion was seconded by Board member Swenson. Motion passed 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bruning, at 4:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on November 17, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

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**Todd Williams, Water Board Vice Chairman**

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**Date**

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**Cindy Sater, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**